

February 27, 1975

SENATOR DUIS: Yes sir. Their bond issue is it in good shape, or are they in default on their revenue bond?

SENATOR STULL: No, they're not. They have a \$1,137,000 in total reserves. I'm sure that they used revenue funds to build their student union. Perhaps it's helping them stay in pretty fair condition.

SENATOR DUIS: Thank you very much.

SPEAKER: Chair recognizes Senator Marvel.

SENATOR MARVEL: I'm getting some figures in regard. . . maybe Senator Stull has all the figures on occupancy and so forth, but there are empty and partially filled dormitories at Peru, Chadron, Wayne, and I think Kearney has had problems because they've lost student enrollment, but also Kearney has problems because students would rather live in trailer courts than in dormitories because of the restrictions involved. Mr. President, somebody would have to do a better selling job than has been done so far to convince me that we ought to advance this bill. I think the major problem in regard to the state college system may be illustrated by the dorm problem, but the fact that the state would take over the dorm obligations there are some of them that are not going to solve the state college problem. We've got too many institutions of higher education in this state. Too many of these institutions that are beginning to lose population are moving into the voch. tech. area because it's a popular area at the moment. Before long we're going to have voch. tech. units all over this state at a rate that's too expensive for a state of less than a million and a half to support. The issue has to do with coordination of higher education, in my humble opinion, and not with this idea of the fact that we simply bail out certain institutions because they have enrollment problems. At Peru, for instance, I'm told there is one dormitory that is closed completely. It hasn't been open for some time. Let me just read this to you. In the Fall of 1974, 3445 of the 5840 available spaces were occupied in the state college system. Listen to these figures. At Chadron, according to these figures, with 1481 spaces available, less than half were occupied. At Kearney with 1900 spaces available, about 1400 are occupied. We could go on and throw out a lot of facts and figures. This is a stop gap solution. It is not a long range solution. We're all at fault in this area, but we got to do something about coordination. We can't bail out the state college system on a piecemeal basis. This will solve absolutely nothing over the long haul.

SPEAKER: Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, a motion on the desk. I move to indefinitely postpone LB 388. Signed, Senator Koch.

SPEAKER: Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President, distinguished colleagues, my purpose for this is I would have to agree with Senator Marvel to a certain extent. I think the state colleges and the University system, and post secondary education, must attend to its problems of trying to organize themselves for the future. This is at best a stop gap measure. I